

POSTHARVEST AVOCADO FRUIT ROT STUDIES

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Application of copper oxycloide, bordeaux mixture, potasium silicate or calcium phophate at flowering and fruit set or during the December-May period (before picking) did not reduce the development of *Colletotrichum gloeosporoides* (C.g.) in the fruit skin (body rot) or stem end rot (SER). They were not reduced either by hot water immersion (50–55° C for 3-5 minutes), showers (60 – 70° C for 20 seconds) or infrared heating with or without previous brushing. Only the immersion at 50° C for 3 minutes of brushed fruits decreased body rot and SER. Regretfully this and the other hot water treatments induced lenticel suberization and (or) red marks in over 70 % of the skin protuberances. Several healing products applied to the stem scar immediately after picking without peduncle did not reduce SER. Continuous flow treatment with 30 % CO₂ in air for 1 to 3 days at 7° C did not reduce body rot or SER. 40 % CO₂ in air at 6.5° C for 1 day even decreased percentage of healthy fruits. Ethylene (20 ppm) ripening at ambient temperature decreased, significantly in some cases, the percentage of healthy fruits. In others it reduced SER incidence. Vapour vinegar treatment for 12 hours at ambient temperature decreased sometimes fruit rots but not consistently. Repeated potassium phosphate trunk applications reduced fruit rots in some experiments but results were not consistent in different plots and years. Observations over 3 years did not show differences in SER between fruits picked with or without stem.